

fearlessly, alternately perching and pursuing the hen and uttering a "rack-rack" call. This bird perched on bushes, an ant-hill, and on a wire stay to a telegraph pole. Both the calls used were unfamiliar to me.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Leonora.

Smoker Parrots in Kings Park.—During the past quarter of a century the Smoker Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*) has extended its range into the South-west in a striking manner. On the Swan coastal plain it is now known as far south as Coolup and though it has been recorded from as near Perth as Melville it has not so far been reported in the near vicinity of the city.

On the morning of October 12, 1950 I saw two birds in Kings Park. They were perched in a tree by Poole Avenue, near Forrest and Lovekin Drives.

—W. R. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

Life History Notes on the Jewel Beetle, *Melobasis sexplagiata*.—Since my previous contribution (*W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 2, January 1950, p. 57) I am able to add a few more facts about this beetle which may be of interest.

The first adult specimen I obtained in 1950 was cut out of a *Eucalyptus rudis* on May 12, this date being approximately one month earlier than that published in the article. Since then specimens were collected on June 25, July 10 and 19, August 20, September 4 and October 10. The last-mentioned date is nearly a fortnight later than my previously published record.

In May there were many larvae present in the bark. They were in different stages of development, the bulk of them about to pupate. In June and July a few larvae were present but mostly there were well-formed pupae and mature beetles. During August and September there were hardly any larvae; but there were small ones of the new generation. There were mainly mature beetles present.

In October I obtained two specimens of the perfect insect. They were extremely active and when found were just under the bark, apparently about to emerge. On this occasion the young larvae were more numerous, small and apparently just recently hatched, all having the distinct blood streak down the back. Specimens measured from one-quarter to one-half an inch.

I tried to find a mature specimen of the beetle again in November, but only found larvae in great numbers, all busy at their tunnelling.

From the above observations it seems that adult specimens of *Melobasis sexplagiata* are definitely free and flying and ovipositing from June until October.

—R. P. McMILLAN, "Glendearg," Bejoording.

Records of the White-backed Swallow in the South-West.—The White-backed Swallow (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*) is stated in the *Handbook of the Birds of Western Australia* (Serventy and Whittell) to avoid the South-west forested area but to be found in the Northam district. It may be of interest to record that I saw two of these swallows at Muresk on September 10, 1950.

—E. L. CARTHEW, West Perth.

While travelling from Perth along the Albany Highway on January 15, 1950 I saw a pair of White-backed Swallows near the 80-miles peg (between Bannister and Williams). The country hereabouts is thickly timbered.

—DON REID, Wembley.

Introduced Snails.—V. N. Serventy (*W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 2, 1950, p. 119) records the Dune Snail (*Cochlicella acuta*) on Point John in the Point Peron area.

I located this species near the track just to the north of Shoalwater Bay in 1939. Prior to that year I have no record of the species in the Point Peron area.

V. N. Serventy suggests that *Helix pisana* may have been transported from Bunbury to Pemberton on rail trucks. I have frequently noticed large numbers of *H. pisana* congregated under rail trucks left standing between the jetty and railway station at Bunbury and have assumed that these snails were frequently conveyed considerable distances by rail. That the species is not more widely distributed is probably due only to the fact that *H. pisana*, like *Cochlicella acuta*, does not appear to thrive except in maritime situations.

I found *Helix pisana* frequent on Garden Island in 1939.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Leonora.

Food of the Bustard.—On a recent trip to a station near Yalgoo I was on the spot, one evening, when a lubra from the native camp shot a Bustard or Wild Turkey (*Eupodotis australis*). In the interests of natural history I commandeered the erop, thereby causing much speculation and banter among the native population. Upon examination of the contents, the following items were revealed as making up the bird's diet:—

150 Large green and black caterpillars.

50 Ground weevils (*Leptops biordinatus*), about 1 in. in length.

10 Ground weevils (*Cubicorrhynchus* sp.), about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length.

35 Millipedes.

15 Pebbles, all white quartz, one weighing at least 4 oz.

A quantity of seeds and green herbage.

The erop weighed well over a pound.

I had collected 12 species of ground weevils in considerable numbers that day, and what puzzled me was the fact that there were only two of them represented in the erop contents. These